

Honduras missionary recruits for projects

By Tim Nicholas

Stanley Stamps wants to take company home with him. The furloughing missionary to Honduras is spending these next few months in Mississippi enlisting teams from Baptist churches and associations to go to Honduras to assist in building programs and medical brigades.

Already Stamps, who has been in the States with his wife Glenna since late July, has five groups committed to go over the next 10 to 12 months.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board recently voted to call Stamps during his furlough as missionary in residence to the state Brotherhood Department, working out of that office in the Baptist Building in Jackson. He will be staying until sometime in January when he returns to the field.

"Small chapel construction is our ongoing need," says Stamps, a native of Prentiss and a veteran missionary of 23 years service. Other areas, he says, include an urgent request to

build duplex cottages at the Baptist encampment on Lake Yojoa, and have the kitchen and dining room rebuilt.

The seminary at Tegucigalpa needs to have some buildings finished and have a recording studio and classroom-library complex completed.

Other needs include agricultural help, and medical-dental work.

"Agricultural needs are more ambiguous," says Stamps, because the work is in Christian Social Ministries which operates a vocational training center. This center needs to be equipped, says Stamps, who noted that a Gulfport layman Jimmy Tucker of Pine View Baptist Church is arranging for transport of some of the needed equipment.

There is a possible need for instructors for small industrial crafts, like the repair of worn out appliances. Stamps told of one woman who received a repaired blender. She set up a fruit juice stand in a market. "It's a

meager living, but dignified," he said.

He said the Brotherhood of Oklahoma has set up two irrigation projects where drought has hit and have a well drilling rig available. One possible need includes involvement in a dozen well drilling projects.

Several places need training in nutrition and preventive medicine and at least three medical brigades need to be formed, plus there is a need for several dental clinics and ophthalmological groups.

The need for chapel building is all over the country, according to Stamps. "No less than 18 projects are already approved. Some funding is still lacking," he said. The chapels average 25 feet by 40 feet with electricity and related Sunday School space.

One group from Poplarville is planning on going to Honduras in January. Willie Stringer, a physician has recruited another physician, a student, a dentist, and an optometrist.

"The group he brought last January was the best organized and best run medical brigade missionary nurse Frances Crawford said she had ever participated in," said Stamps.

Honduras Baptist medical work almost was stopped recently. A decision was made by medical missionaries to put a moratorium on medical brigades because of a complaint by a national physicians' organization. A flood of medical personnel entering the country without proper authorization from the medical authorities and some bad local publicity had left the impression that foreign medical personnel were no longer welcome in the country. "With added insight we learned that medical brigades are welcome provided they meet with requirements such as documentation concerning

their qualifications," said Stamps.

One local physician, thinking there was medical work going on in his area without authorization, discovered that proper procedures had, indeed, been followed. This led to his requesting a volunteer pediatric surgeon to work with him in Tela, and the need for that surgeon to bring his own surgical staff.

Stamps said that everything done by the approximately 40 missionaries in Honduras is based on a definite strategy for mission goals on a basis of action plans with 48 Baptist churches and about 80 mission extensions of those churches. Stamps is available to speak to church and men's and boys' groups. He can be contacted at the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

The

Baptist Record

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Help still needed

Volunteers building Central Hills lodge

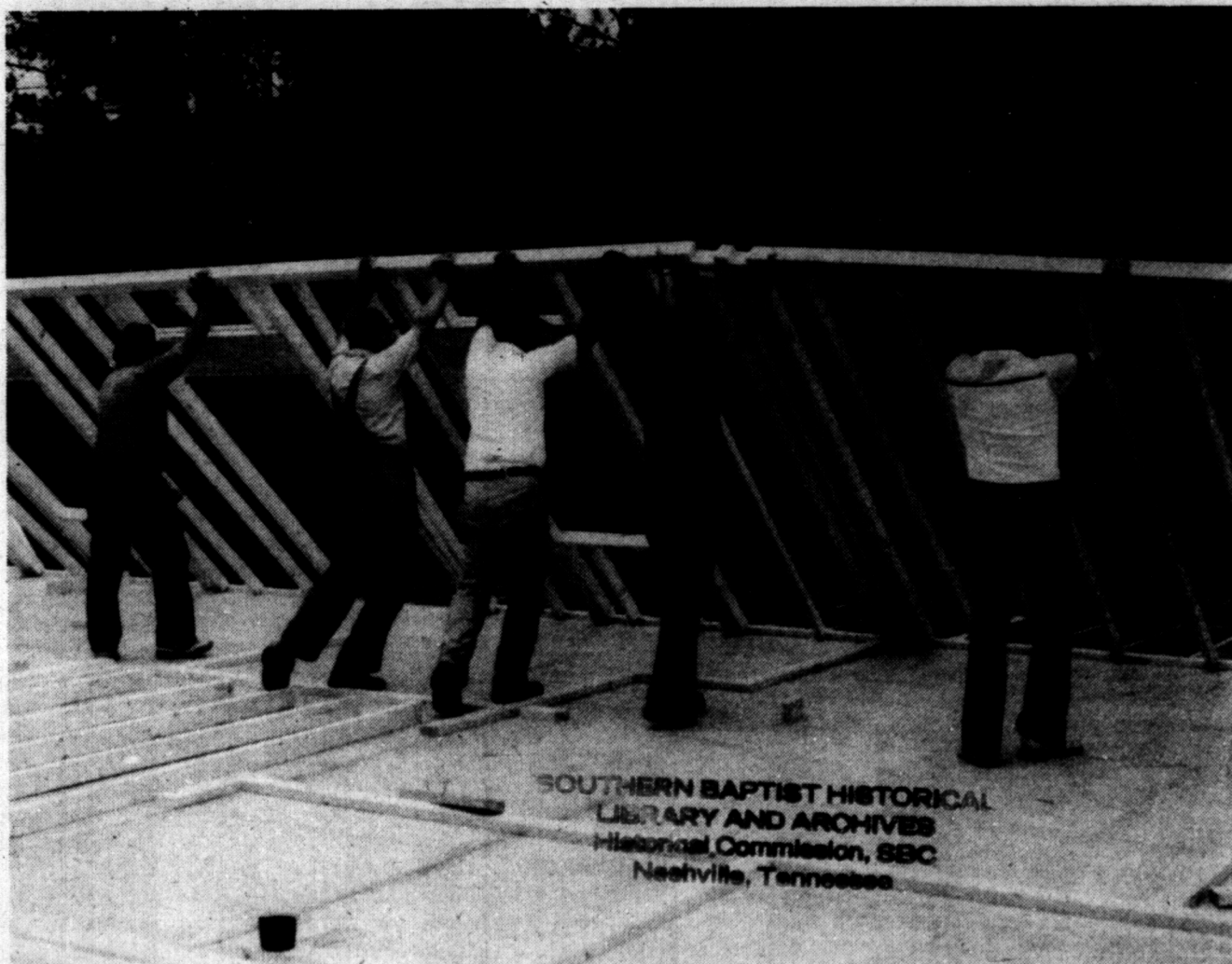
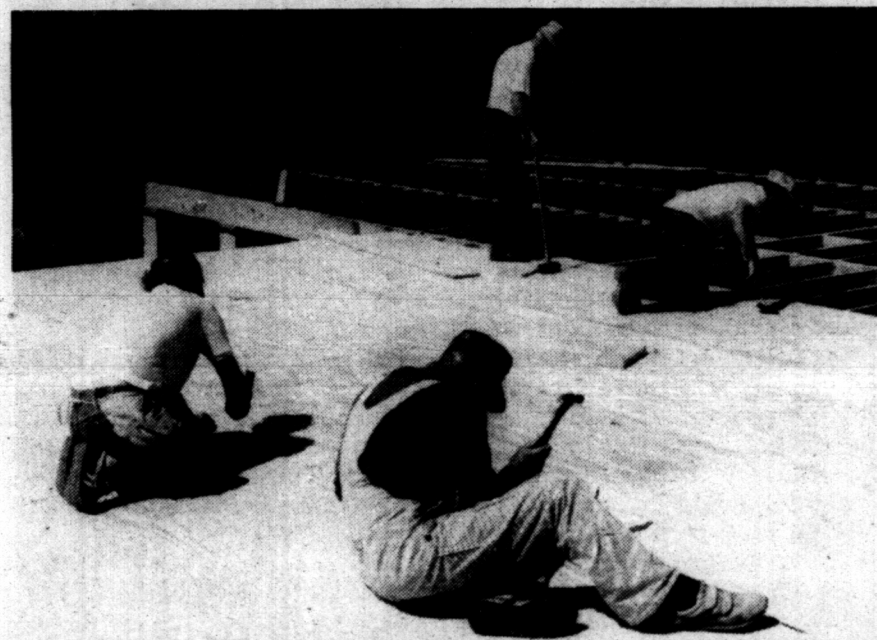
The lodge/multi-purpose building at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko is progressing with the help of volunteer from across the state of Mississippi. Joe Heraney of Hollandale Baptist Church is serving as volunteer general contractor, supervising the work of the volunteers who have helped frame the floor, nailed on the flooring, and started the stud walls.

According to Dan West, manager of Central Hills, which is operated by the state Brotherhood Department as a retreat center, framing will continue for a few more weeks. Then the trusses need to be hoisted and installed with roof decking and roofing to follow. West said a crane truck will be needed to lift the trusses in place.

The new building will expand housing capacity for R.A. camp and will provide an activity room for rainy days. It will also provide a staff center area and a facility usable for retreats and conferences during the off-season.

West reports that groups are still needed to commit themselves to help with the building. A leader of each group needs to phone West at 289-9730 to set the dates on the calendar. Groups can work from one day to six days a week and limited space is available for travel trailers with limited hook-ups. Tent lodging is also available and meals will be provided for the groups while at Central Hills.

Those besides Mr. and Mrs. Heraney who have already helped include Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Goldman, and Mr. and Mrs. Dorphus Wilson all of Cliff Temple Church, Natchez; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Worrul of First Church, Ackerman; John Vaughn, Sonny Carpenter, Randell Davis, Hal Harbour, and William Sessums, all from Arkadelphia Church, Bailey; Higdon Herrington, W. L. Wilson, James A. Kelly, G. M. Stidham, Robert Cotton, John Kirkpatrick, and W. O. McComb, of First Church, Mathiston; and John Sproles, Jarrett Richardson and John Cain, of First Church, Kosciusko.



In the photos above, volunteers nail down the sub-floor of the lodge at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, and raise the stud wall, which is always a joint effort. (Photos by Dan West.)

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Bold Mission Launch Day

Bold Mission Launch Day, which is Oct. 6, initiates a major emphasis in the Bold Mission Thrust concept. During the year 1985-86, beginning on Oct. 6, Strengthen Missions will be the primary emphasis of Southern Baptists. It will be the third such emphasis to be adopted for Southern Baptists as a part of Bold Mission Thrust.

Emphases relating to reaching people and developing believers were initiated in 1982 and commanded the attention of Southern Baptists through this much of 1985. Now the launch efforts during 1985-86 will be utilized to set goals for Bold Mission Thrust for the period 1985 to 1990. Those goals

will relate to strengthening missions.

Bold Mission Thrust is the concept that Southern Baptists put into action in 1977 at the convention in Kansas City. The plan is to make the gospel available to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

The immediate efforts in presenting the gospel to everyone are looking toward simultaneous revivals all over the nation during the spring of next year. In Mississippi those revivals will be in April, and Mississippi Baptists are gearing up to make the gospel available to everything in Mississippi just as quickly as possible.

Bold Mission Launch Day is an em-

phasis that is being promoted by the Mississippi Baptist Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department. Julius Thompson is the director.

A new 20-minute musical has been made available to aid in the promotion of Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90. It is "2000 A.D." written by Forbis and Hays and produced by Van Ness Press.

Bold Mission Launch Day Oct. 6 is another step in the direction of reaching the world with the gospel by the year 2000. The simultaneous revivals in the spring will prosper because of the proper development of events on Bold Mission Launch Day.

Little chance for Crowders

Bob Crowder, a layman from Birmingham, and his wife probably don't have much chance of getting anywhere with their push for setting aside the ruling of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention that did not allow a challenge to the report of the Committee on Committees in presenting nominees for the members of the committee on boards.

The Crowders have threatened to sue the SBC Executive Committee unless the committee were to negate the action of the convention in electing the nominees of the Committee on Committees.

One primary misconception stands in the way of the Crowders' purpose. Their aim would presume that the Executive Committee can actually act for the convention. But while the

bylaws indicate that the Executive Committee is the convention between sessions, it is not at liberty to take actions for the convention or to undo something that the convention has done. If it could, utter chaos would be the result.

So there doesn't seem to be much of a way in which the Crowders could win such a suit.

But there is another reason also, and it also stands on a misconception. The convention parliamentarian, Wayne Allen of Memphis, ruled that only the Committee on Committees could nominate prospective nominees

for the Committee on Boards. Indeed, the bylaws say that the Committee on Committees "shall" make such nominations. Thus he ruled, and not without at least fairly good grounds, that only the Committee on Committees could make such nominations.

The misconception is that almost beyond a doubt the bylaws did not intend to say that. The term used is nominees, not appointees. No doubt the bylaws intended to point out that it is incumbent upon the Committee on Committees to make those nominations; but the convention, if any member of the convention so chooses,

could also make nominations from the floor for the Committee on Boards.

I feel that the effort of the last convention to replace the Committee on Committees' nominees by the presidents of the state conventions and the WMU presidents in the states was ill-advised and impractical. Such a broadscale set of nominations without individual screening would never be practical. And I feel that parliamentarian Allen has at least a reasonable defense for his position because of the wording of the bylaws.

But I just don't believe that the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention were intended to establish the

effect of his ruling as the procedure. It's not Baptist.

The Baptist Record does not intend to get into a full-scale discussion of any issues facing the Southern Baptist Convention at this time. This threat of a suit is a new concept, however; and it needs to be understood by Southern Baptists.

Crowder is not likely to win his suit, but his point is well taken. The idea that only the Committee on Committees is able to nominate members of the Committee on Boards needs to be addressed by the convention. If it is not done soon it will be on the way to becoming a precedent.

Guest opinion . . .

Conflict, the pastor, and the church

By Jack Albritton

I had conducted a revival effort in another state. The church was in a state of conflict and had recently voted to keep its pastor. The pastor, a man I had known from seminary days, was exhausted from the ordeal and very much in need of an understanding and sympathetic ear.

After spending seven days trying to minister in that climate (breathless tension) I was ready to come home. I skipped my last night in the motel and drove all through the night. With plenty of time to think (six hour drive), I reflected on the meeting. God blessed the church and we saw people expressing their love for each other and their pastor. The pastor, a very competent man, (a doctorate from one of our seminaries) has gone through all the soul searching that one does who faces this kind of problem. You wonder about your call to the ministry, the call to that church, and about your over-all effectiveness. (I believe that he could be the very effective pastor of any church in our convention).

Much has been written in state papers lately, in fact more than I can remember in recent history. Although I don't believe I have any new light, I do believe I have a fresh insight on conflict, the pastor, and the church.

Let me share a few thoughts that came to me on that long drive home.

First of all, conflict, unlike tension, is always destructive and never constructive. The tensions of life like those between our desire and our ought are mainly received from the Holy Spirit to gently, or not so gently, move us toward the center of God's will. Conflict in the church is always generated by Satan, "for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." (I Cor. 14:33).

Secondly, Satan uses the conflict to undermine the authority of the pastor and to move the church away from its mission. How does this happen? I am glad you asked because I believe I have at least part of the answer.

Generally it happens like this . . . one or two or a few (does not have to be many) begin to question major areas of false doctrine like the color of hymnals, height of grass on the front lawn, or why we weren't informed when 75 watt light bulbs were bought instead of the traditionally 40 watt bulbs.

The problem is not hymnals, grass, or light bulbs but a question of authority. What right has he (the pastor) to make any decision in the church. The "few" are very vocal and

feel their leadership threatened when a pastor assumes his God-given responsibility.

The problem is further aggravated when the silent majority allows the "few" to have their way with hymnals, grass, and light bulbs because, "What is so important about these little things anyway?" Well, the only problem with the little things is that they always grow to big things.

Word will get around the community that "that church" is always fussing about something. These "few" are always questioning his leadership before new members, prospects, and worst of all before the tender ears of their children. Several harmful things usually happen as the results of this "bad press" for the pastor and the church (remember you cannot harm the pastor without harming the church). The new members will slip out the back door, the prospects will visit some place else, and those dear children will lose respect for the one man who wants to lead them to Christ.

These "few" who are determining the direction of our faltering churches are doing so because no one wants to get involved. These few for the most part do not participate in any of the outreach areas of the church. Sunday evenings, Wednesday nights, and

visitation nights are not on their list of priorities. They won't miss a committee meeting because these small groups hold their power.

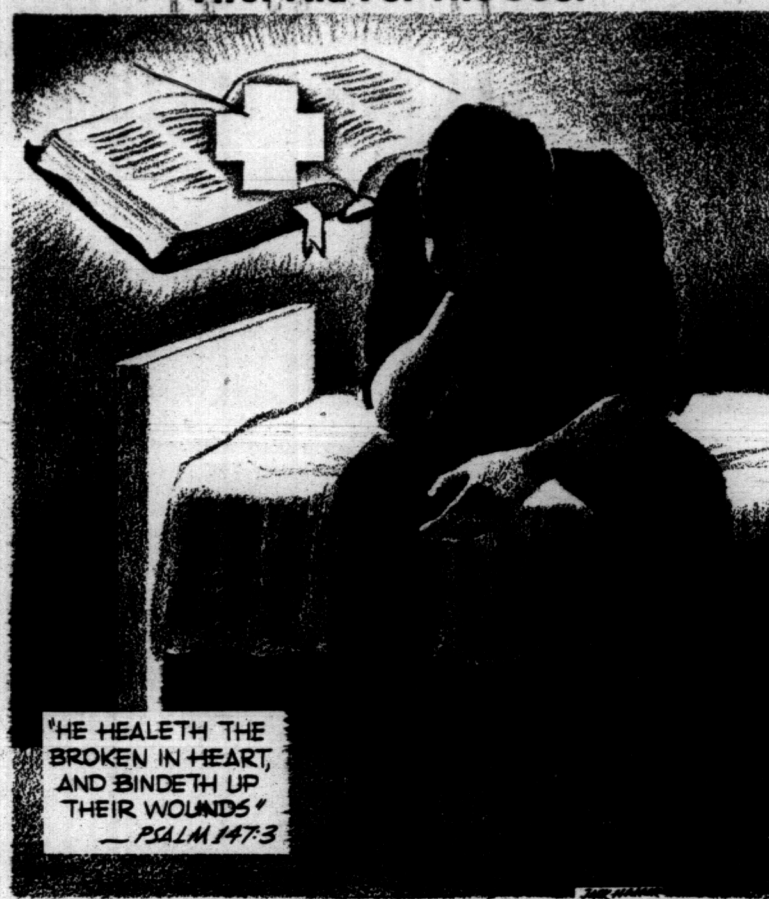
On the other hand, the silent majority will many times miss business meetings, committee meetings, and deacon's meetings because they don't want to be a part of the conflict. The silent majority will avoid all conflict until they have to show up to vote to keep their "sweet pastor."

Beloved, there would not be conflict in our churches from within (always conflict without) if God's silent army could stand up for his church and his man. Remember, if your pastor gets outside God's will, God will deal with him. Your pastor is human (not divine) and will make mistakes. If you will love him through these times, you will help him to grow to be the pastor you will never want to lose.

To use the Apostle Paul's words . . . and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law. And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we

(Continued on page 6)

First Aid For The Soul



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Peace committee reports "reasons for optimism" Second small church leader training offered

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Peace Committee made its first regularly scheduled report Sept. 18 when chairman Charles Fuller addressed the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fuller announced the dates of the next four committee meetings. The committee is seeking solutions to the problems which have plagued the 14.4-million member denomination for several years and listed several specific "reasons for optimism."

Admitting the optimism, "prevails in varying degrees," Fuller cited the spirit of committee members has been a source of encouragement since the first meeting. "Despite the sharp differences between us, there is a conviction God will bless the honest attempts to face the facts of our controversy," he said.

At the next meeting, Oct. 8-9 in Nashville, each of the 22 committee members is to have submitted a 350 word statement, identifying the theological issues which beset the denomination. "This is not to ignore

the structural, political, and parliamentary matters which have been brought to our attention," Fuller added.

Fuller also said he was encouraged by the spirit of prayer which marked the deliberations and by the "many reports of intercessory prayer, all across our convention," for the Peace Committee. A group of Roanoke, Va., lay persons are meeting each Tuesday at 6 a.m. to pray for each committee member by name and Fuller has received numerous letters each week pledging the prayer support of churches, prayer groups, pastors' conferences, and individuals.

Executive Committee members were requested to do five things, by Fuller:

Pray daily for the Peace Committee, encourage others to pray, communicate their concerns and suggestions directly to the committee, to lower the profile and restrain from unnecessary rhetoric regarding the controversies, and to "turn a deaf ear to the cynics, skeptics, pessimists, and defeatists."

The committee has scheduled meetings in Atlanta Dec. 10-11; Dallas Jan. 21-22, and back in Nashville Feb. 25-26. Additional meetings will be announced later.

Baptist Seminary sets registration

Pre-registration for the fall semester of classes at Mississippi Baptist Seminary are being held now from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. On Oct. 1, registration is scheduled from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Classes will begin Oct. 2.

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary is a cooperative joint venture of National and Southern Baptists, owned and operated by trustees elected by the two groups in Mississippi. Dick Brogan is president.

ACTS plan refinanced

(Continued from page 3)

that when the RTVC had paid back \$2 million, for example, it could borrow up to \$400,000.

In approving the fund raising campaign, the action requires the RTVC to make reports on all fund raising activities, to conduct no other financial campaign and to base the solicitation campaign on "current and complete financial information and projections shall be based on experience and current research data."

Allen said plans currently are underway for major campaigns in Birmingham and Mobile, Ala.; Atlanta, and Baton Rouge, La.; and for "telemissions" campaigns in "40 or 50 cities" in October.

The Executive Committee action required RTVC trustees to adopt the terms and conditions. Allen said he had sent notification to trustees and is planning a conference telephone call and mail vote. He added he expects the vote to be completed by late September.

Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.

Abrams breaks hip

Joe Abrams, former associate editor of the Baptist Record, now retired, fell and broke his hip on Friday night, September 13.

He and Mrs. Abrams now live in Greenwood and he is at the Greenwood-LeFlore Hospital, Room 202. Mrs. Abrams reported last week that the doctors were extremely well pleased at his rapid rate of recovery.

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Tolar, Dockrey will lead January Bible Preview

January Bible Preview Study will take place in the Hall of Fame room at Mississippi College, Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The study is for individuals who will be leading the January Bible Study for adults and youth.

Bill Tolar, dean, School of Theology, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., will teach the adult leaders. Karen Dockrey, youth minister and writer from Henderson, Tenn., will teach the youth leaders.

The adult leaders will study Hebrews: Call to Christian Commitment. The youth leaders will study Deuteronomy: Call to Obedience.

Tolar, a Louisiana native and a Baylor graduate, has a Th.D. degree from Southwestern Seminary. He has taught at Southwestern since 1965. Before then he taught at Baylor University and held several Texas pastorates. Among his writings are contributions to Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia, Southwestern Journal of Theology, The Sunday School Builder, and Tyndale Family Bible Encyclopedia.

Mrs. Dockrey previously served as youth minister to two Indian churches. She currently teaches youth in Sunday School and writes full-time for youth and youth leaders. She received a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Her books include Getting to Know God, Getting to Know God Study Guide (release date 1/86) and Friends: Finding Them and Keeping Them.

For the preview study, a complimentary meal will be provided by Mississippi College. Reservations must be made to Larry Salter, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (phone 968-3800), no later than Oct. 11.



Dockrey

Tolar

Meeting set for handbell leaders

The state handbell leadership seminar will be offered at First Church, Brandon, Oct. 3, according to an announcement by Perry Robinson, handbell specialist, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

R. E. Thompson, Calvary Church, New Orleans, La., will be featured as guest clinician.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the first session at 9:30 a.m. The day's program will conclude at 5 p.m.

The seminar is for both inexperienced and experienced handbell directors.

Introduction of '86 Festival music and sight reading (easy music) are two of the subjects to be discussed. A Video of '85 Festival will be presented during the lunch period, and a mini-concert is planned for 4:40 p.m.

Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is sponsoring the seminar. Farley Earnest is minister of music at the host church. Jeffers Handbell Supply is furnishing the sight reading music.

The success of the first-ever all-day training session for workers in Baptist churches with memberships under 150 has caused the development of another such meeting.

The second "Small Church Leadership Conference" will take place at William Carey College on Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In addition to training for virtually all leadership positions in the church, there will be preaching sessions led by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and by Guy Henderson, director of the board's Evangelism Department.

Also, according to Chester Vaughn, MBCB program director, there will be quartet singing, free lunch, and study course credit offered to participants. Vaughn's office sponsors the event which first met March 30 at Blue

Mountain College with 500 in attendance.

A total of 23 church leadership positions will be offered specific training in their areas. They are pastors, deacon chairmen, Sunday School directors, Sunday School workers with adults, youths, children, and preschoolers, WMU directors, Baptist Women leaders, and leaders of Ac- teens, G.A.s. and Mission Friends, Baptist men and R.A. directors, volunteer music directors, pianists, preschool and children's music leaders, Church Training directors, and Church Training leaders of adults, youths, children, and preschoolers.

So that lunch can be prepared, participants are asked to mail to their associational office information concerning number attending from each church by Sept. 30.

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Parliamentarian sees no violation of bylaws

By Mark Kelly

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—The parliamentarian who made a controversial ruling during June's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention sees "absolutely no violation" of SBC bylaws in the ruling, as alleged by a Birmingham, Ala., layman.

Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Church, here, defended SBC President Charles Stanley's decision to rule out of order a motion by messenger James Slatton to amend the report of the SBC Committee on Committees.

News reports indicated a Birmingham layman, Robert Crowder, retained an attorney and intended to file suit if the SBC Executive Committee did not take steps to remedy what he alleged were violations of SBC bylaws involved in the ruling.

Allen denied Crowder's claim Stanley had violated bylaws and messenger rights by ruling the motion out of order, ignoring points of order on the matter and refusing calls for a floor vote on the ruling.

"There was absolutely no violation of the bylaws involved," asserted Allen, who said he had based his decision on three assertions: (1) nominations to the Committee on Boards may be made only by the Committee on Committees, based on an interpretation of the language of bylaw 16(1); (2) the Committee on Committees brings nominations, rather than a report to the convention, and (3) since the bylaws do not provide otherwise, under Robert's Rules of Order, nominations may not be amended.

Critics of the ruling have contended the nominations of the Committee

on Committees, like those on the Committee on Boards, constitute a report, which becomes the property of the body on its presentation. Messengers may then deal with it as they please, it is argued.

Much of the difficulty surrounding the ruling arose out of what Allen called "abnormal" procedures specified by the bylaws.

He noted the "distinctive language" of bylaw 16(1), which he interpreted as meaning only the Committee on Committees may make nominations to the convention for the Committee on Boards. In addition he said bylaw 16(8) provides for amendments to the "report" of the Committee on Boards, adding both processes were departures from established parliamentary procedure and "conflicted" with Robert's Rules of Order.

"The crucial distinction we saw was that the bylaws specifically state the Committee on Boards' nominations can be amended," said Allen. "This is a violation of Robert's Rules of Order, but bylaws can override those rules." The bylaws make no such provision in regard to the Committee on Committees, he added.

Since no provision is made for amendments to that report, Slatton's motion was out of order, Allen reasoned. Moreover, on the interpretation that the bylaws require a person be nominated by the Committee on Committees, Slatton would have been ruled out of order even if he had offered additional nominations, rather than an amendment, Allen said.

"The bylaws require that a person

Mrs. Zilpha Huber dies at 92

Mrs. Zilpha Ellis Mansell Huber, 92, the first woman from Madison County, the second woman in Mississippi, to serve in the House of Representatives, succeeding her late husband, Charlie Mansell of Camden, died in the Starkville Manor, Starkville, Sept. 16.

Graveside services were conducted Sept. 17 by a former pastor of hers, C. J. Olander of Meridian. Memorial services were held at Faith Baptist Church, Starkville, where she was a charter member, and for which she suggested the name.

Mrs. Huber was matron of the young men's dormitory for 17 years at Holmes Junior College, Goodman. She was a Sunday School teacher wherever she lived, and was active in Woman's Missionary Union.

"She was one of Mississippi's most eloquent and persuasive speakers," said Olander. "She was trained by Booth Lowrey of Blue Mountain College, her alma mater."

Survivors include her son, Tony Mansell of Starkville. She was the widow of Harry Huber, a Canton attorney, and the daughter of a Baptist pastor. Of her four brothers, one was sheriff of Holmes County twice; another president of the Holmes County Bank at Lexington; one was clerk of the Mississippi Supreme Court 32 years; and the fourth was a law officer and businessman.

be nominated by the Committee on Committees," he said. "That is not a normal process."

"Personally, I think we would be better off to totally conform with Robert's Rules of Order in the process of nominations and elections," he added. "Unfortunately, neither process is followed strictly."

Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Initial Mexico reports say Southern Baptists uninjured

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Southern Baptist representative Mack Jones has reported all Southern Baptist personnel in Mexico were uninjured following the major earthquake that jolted southern Mexico Sept. 19.

Jones reached Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials via HAM radio from Mexico City, where much of the death and destruction occurred. He said all of the approximately 90 Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico had been contacted and confirmed safe, with the exception of Milton and Mary Jane Allred in Morelia, a city in Michoacan state.

Foreign Mission Board staffers contacted the Allreds by telephone during the afternoon, however. Mrs. Allred said they felt the earthquake in

Morelia but had seen no damage, despite the fact that the earthquake's epicenter struck the southern tip of Michoacan.

Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico requested \$25,000 in immediate emergency relief funds from the Foreign Mission Board. They didn't say how the money would be used. Needs are still being evaluated.

Texas Baptists, California Baptists, and others contacted Foreign Mission Board officials offering relief personnel and materials. A team of board officials is evaluating needs and awaiting further contact from Mexico. An emergency relief team may be sent in the next few days if Mexico personnel request it.

Mississippians assigned to Mexico include Jimmy and Susie Hartfield of Hattiesburg, and Lamar County, now on furlough; Steve and Minnie Hicks, (she's from Poplarville); and Mack and Maria Jones from Clara and Hattiesburg.

Victory will mark 100th year

Victory Church, Route 1, Bassfield, will observe its 100th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 29.

The services will begin at 9:45. At noon, lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The church is on the Bassfield-Williamsburg Road, seven miles from Bassfield and 10 miles from Collins. James Lee Bailey is pastor.

Missionary News

R.H. and Rowena Falwell, missionaries to Korea, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 201 Carriage Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37222). He is a native of Kentucky, and she is the former Rowena Gunter of Sallis, Miss.

Church conflict

(Continued from page 2)

believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Rom. 13:9-12)

The time is short and Christ is returning! If we are to be caught in a conflict, let it be outside the church, with Satan, and not inside the church, with each other. It's up to us.

Jack Albritton is pastor of First Baptist Church, Purvis.

Letters to the Editor

Christian rock

Lately, there seems to be some interest running fairly strong among the Record's readership concerning Christian rock music. I've never attended a program of rock music, either Christian rock, Woodstock rock, or any other variety; therefore, I plead ignorance as to the actual content of these events.

I have noted for a number of years that college students consistently mention how their ears rang following one of these events, and they often describe how painfully loud the music was at times. Mind you, these are young folks talking about "Christian rock" as well as the other petrous music shows. Be aware also that some of these programs are in church sanctuaries.

Sadly, such events are dulling the wonderful sense of hearing on a permanent basis. Yes, there is actual hearing loss incurred when the sound pressure levels are high enough to be quite uncomfortable. Eventually, ears that are bombarded by tempestuous torrents of high pressure sound levels will no longer be able to detect the "rustle of angel wings" (commonly known as turning the pages of Bibles in a worship service).

Note that these voluntarily induced

injuries of the ear are permanent and the high, celestial overtones of a singing violin or comforting sound of pines whispering in a breeze might never be heard again after sufficient damage has occurred. Eventually, the "s" and "sh" sounds of the hearing impaired person may show symptoms of the hearing loss by becoming distorted, slushy sounding.

Talking louder to a person with noise trauma hearing loss may not improve the person's ability to understand any better. There may be only increased distortion of the sound and annoyance. Speaking slowly and very distinctly to these hearing impaired individuals does improve the person's ability to understand. (Incidentally, talking in this manner to older folks who have hearing loss due to aging is also recommended.)

Could we ever believe that God would have us intentionally damage a sense so useful as hearing, either our own or someone else's?

Name withheld by request

Crowder lawsuit

Editor:

I was shocked and deeply grieved as I read the article in the Sept. 12 issue regarding the possible lawsuit by Mr.

and Mrs. Robert Crowder. In the article they are quoted as having said that they feel that "the violations should be remedied quietly and voluntarily by the officers of the Executive Committee." In the mean time, they have retained a law firm with the apparent intention of bringing a lawsuit if the Executive Committee does not satisfy them, and this has become a matter of public record. It hardly seems either "voluntary" or "quiet" to me. I have no problem with anyone going to the Executive Committee with a request or a question about the procedures or actions of the convention officers, but my spirit grieves over the threat of a lawsuit.

Johnny Hutchison
Pastor
Duck Hill Baptist Church

Crowder suit

Editor:

As I read the article of the Crowders' suing the Baptist Convention Executive Committee. I couldn't help but think "Oh my, one more slam against the Southern Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Christians."

It seems to me that all these people are missing the mark. They should be thinking about the most important matter of all — that is, getting the sav-

ing word of God to everyone and winning them to Christ and the best way to do it.

Through the years I have kept up with the convention and its achievements; then all the controversy and disagreements and what have you started. What I keep thinking is how many people we have lost to the devil after their reading about it over and over and being turned off because of it, new converts as well as others who might have been won to Christ had we focused on winning and building instead of tearing down and destroying.

All this has to hurt and disappoint God our Father, for God tells us to tell and seek to win everyone to a saving knowledge of him. How can we achieve this with so much discord going on over trivial things?

LaVerne Brown
Madison

Thanks from Biloxi

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mississippi Baptists for so many expressions of concern and help following Hurricane Elena's visit to the Gulf Coast. By now, most Baptists are aware that the disaster vans from

Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi were positioned at the First Baptist Churches in Biloxi, Gulfport, and Pascagoula. We had the Alabama van and had the privilege to work with about 40 men and women from that state who joined volunteer workers from our church to serve approximately 10,500 meals. Just the other day, I attended a meeting where the mayor of the City of Baltimore presented a \$35,000 check to the City of Biloxi to buy a disaster van for the use of the American Red Cross. At that meeting, Mayor Gerald Blessey accepted the gift but also paid tribute to the Mississippi Baptist Convention for being a leader in helping to meet so many needs as a result of this disaster. He was most impressed with the Alabama disaster van and the spirit of ministry that was offered through this channel for several days.

Our people are deeply grateful for the prayer support, work teams, telephone calls of encouragement, and many other expressions we received from people all over the state. I join others in offering our deepest sense of gratitude to our Mississippi Baptist friends.

Frank Gunn
Pastor, First Church
Biloxi

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Heather Elizabeth Dennis

*How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy she gives;
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days
Because He lives.*

On September 25, 1955, a ten-week-old baby attended my and W.D.'s wedding at First Baptist Church, Jackson.



She sat on a back pew, in the lap of my aunt, known to all our family as "Sister." The baby, Karen Elizabeth Brown, daughter of my sister, Betty, the matron of honor, wore a pale green dress which matched, in color, those of the bridesmaids.

On August 24, 1985, at age 30, married to Tom Dennis for six years, Karen gave birth to her first child, a daughter. Luann, Karen's sister, called that morning to tell us that Heather Elizabeth had been born at 4:36 a.m. at the Baptist Medical Center in Montgomery, Ala., and weighed 8 lbs., 2 ozs.

I have no children, and consequently no grandchildren. Perhaps I may have permission to marvel over this new creature who has come onto the horizon of my days. At last Betty is a grandmother and Mama is a great-grandmother.

Tuesday of this week she celebrated her month-old birthday. I have only seen her twice, when she was two weeks old, though I have her picture, made the day she was born, and I look at it fairly often.

We knocked at the door of their house in Montgomery that Friday afternoon, Sept. 6, and Tom came to the door saying, "Shhh." Heather was asleep, lying on her stomach in the big basket on the floor of the den. At first, all I could see was her thick brown hair and a diaper-covered derriere. But then I saw her long slender feet and long fingers (concert pianist of the future?), her chubby cheeks and cherubic mouth. We waited and waited. Would she never wake up? Tom picked her up, but she leaned her head against his shoulder, propped a cheek upon one hand, and closed her eyes.

They wanted a combination Scottish-English name, hence the Heather Elizabeth. Also the Elizabeth is for her mother and both grandmothers.

W.D. held her. He's good at tending to babies. I'm always afraid to touch them; they might break. Finally my turn came, though. She was lying in Karen's lap next to me, when she opened her eyes wide and followed the movement of my hands as I talked.

"Her eyes are brown," they had said. I thought they looked blue, with large dark pupils. She looked at me, and I touched her soft skin, and held her in my hands, and my heart melted! She lay on her back, her head against my knees, and almost succeeded in raising her head! My, she is strong! Karen said she could already turn around in her crib, moving from one end to the other, without any help.

Karen retrieved her, and gave her the bottle that Tom had prepared. "She's supposed to have four ounces, but sometimes she drinks six!" she told me. I guess that's because she's such a big baby; she needs a lot.

Tom said she cried as soon as she was born — she didn't even wait for the doctor to spank her.

Karen is an English teacher, but has special leave until November. She said she and Tom are sleeping in shifts every night, each getting three hours at the time, so one of them will always be ready to answer Heather's commands.

Actually, she looks most like her father right now, I think. But everybody has an opinion: "She has Washburn ears, Karen's feet, Tommy's chin, Dennis cheeks..."

The nursery has peach-colored curtains. On the wall are a lace framed swan; a little stuffed lamb on a grapevine wreath; appliqued hangings of a sunbonnet girl and an over-all boy. The bath table and crib are well equipped and the closet holds a pink dress, a blue dress, a white dress, and most anything else a girl could desire.

Tom, who was in the delivery room when Heather was born, told Betty later: "There were four of us in the room. Then suddenly there were five. That was a miracle!"

Pinson speaks at commencement at New Orleans Baptist Seminary

NEW ORLEANS — Both the preparation and the doing of ministry involve three essential aspects — knowledge, skills, and the power of God, according to William M. Pinson, Jr.

Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, spoke Sept. 5, during the convocation service of the 68th academic session at New Orleans Seminary.

He said that without those three aspects "ministry is not done well and life is lived poorly."

"The great success stories in ministry are not necessarily written by those who have learned the most or even those who are the most skilled. They are written by people who have knowledge and skill adequate, but they have learned how to tap into the vast reservoir of God's power," Pinson said.

Secular attention helps foreign, home hunger funds

By Leisa A. Hammett

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)—Recent secular media attention to famine in Africa has prompted Southern Baptist giving for world and domestic hunger, according to a Southern Baptist leader on hunger in America.

Nathan Porter, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board national consultant on domestic hunger, reported Baptists gave nearly \$500,000 to domestic hunger during the first six months of 1985. Last year gifts for hunger in the U.S. were approximately \$600,000, he noted.

Porter predicted if Southern Baptists continue the giving patterns established the first half of 1985, funds for domestic hunger may total one million.

Porter also attributes giving increases for domestic causes to emphases given by local church pastors and state Baptist conventions. Porter said several local churches and state conventions have increased the percentage of hunger gifts allocated to domestic hunger.

Until recently, explained Paul Adkins, Home Mission Board associate mission ministries director, 100 percent of Southern Baptists gifts to "world hunger" were given to the SBC Foreign Mission Board which distributed the funds overseas since, until recent clarification, the term "world hunger" had been interpreted as applying to overseas and not to the U.S.

Pockets of need

Some state conventions are changing this, Adkins said, by distributing 80 percent of the designated hunger receipts to world hunger and 20 percent to domestic hunger.

Media exposure, said Adkins, has also highlighted additional "pockets" of need on the home front including various islands and sociologically identifiable groups such as the elderly.

Porter, said the "overwhelming media-generated interest in Africa has had a very positive connotation on hunger relief in the United States." Since January, a number of Hollywood and Christian celebrities, teamed with secular news media, have focused on the problem.

"It's extremely encouraging to have a strictly secular area in the entertainment field become genuinely concerned and do something about it," Porter said, referring to "USA for Africa," a collection of secular musicians who teamed their talent to produce an album for which proceeds are designated to feed the starving. Ten percent of the album proceeds are allocated for hunger in America.

"I don't want to say that I regret (Southern Baptists) were not the leaders, but we ought to take notice. It's taken secular media to help us. But that doesn't mean (Southern Baptists) have not been doing anything," he added.

Media focus on the (African) problem has resulted in "an attitudinal change" among Southern Baptists the last few months, said Porter.

According to a June 3 Newsweek magazine article on hunger, two million Africans have already died as a result of hunger. F. Bradford Morse,

African relief coordinator for the UN, said if the problem persists an entire generation of Ethiopians, where the problem is greatest, may be lost.

Morse continued that three-fourths of the deaths resulting from hunger are African children under fire. More Africans may die from this famine than in World War I, which would total ten million deaths—seven million of them children.

Until recently Porter said there has been a tendency to "refuse" knowledge of the wide spread hunger problem in America.

"(Now) Africa's hunger and human suffering have become a reality and it hasn't been as easy for us to deny it exists here," said Porter.

Last year, 35.2 million people in America (15 percent of U.S. population) were below poverty level, said Porter. The U.S. Bureau of Statistics defines poverty level at \$10,178 for a family of four. Porter observed that U.S. poverty figures are the highest

U.S. hunger funds going to Mississippians

By Tim Nicholas

Five associations in Mississippi are receiving hunger funds distributed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, however, no undesignated monies given by Mississippi Baptist churches are going to the HMB.

In February, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee voted to send 100 percent of undesignated hunger funds to the Foreign Mission Board. Many state conventions have an 80-20 percent split between the FMB and HMB.

Riverside, Pike, Jackson, Simpson, and Jones Baptist Associations have received \$8,000 in 1985 in hunger funds from the Home Mission Board for distribution to those in need in Mississippi. The money distributed is required to only go for food. Other amounts are available by request of associations through the office of Richard Alford, consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Alford has requests for another \$6,500 in hunger funds for Mississippi.

In 1984, according to HMB figures, Mississippi Baptist churches gave \$757.83 for domestic hunger relief through the HMB, and Mississippi Associations received \$6,000. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board business office, which receives and forwards the funds, reported that thus far in 1985 Mississippi Baptist churches have given \$45 for domestic hunger and \$173,869.04 to the FMB, mostly for world hunger.

Part of the problem is that the term "world hunger" is generally understood to mean "foreign" hunger only. "Mississippi churches which want to give to hunger in the U.S. and, therefore, Mississippi hunger, need to designate their funds for domestic hunger," said Alford.

since 1954.

Even though more monies indicate increased concern and awareness for the problem in America, Porter maintained Southern Baptists are far from burdened about suffering in the U.S.

"It's my conviction," said Porter, "that relieving hunger and human suffering is not a priority of Southern Baptists. In confronting so much human need, we're getting to know the scriptures and that the gospel (of Jesus Christ) can't be limited to words. We have to touch human lives and minister to the whole person."

He added that a contemporary Christian theology he described as "success cultism" leans toward a "negative" approach to poor people.

"Sometimes it's very difficult," explained Porter, "for a person who loves the Bible to love poor people because he's gotten his culture mixed up in the Bible." When "success cultism" becomes fused with the Bible, Porter added, the poor are looked down on.

A prevalent attitude among Christians today, said Porter, is that all a person has to do to be materially successful is believe in Jesus Christ. "I believe that attitude is changing," Porter interjected, "we are accepting poor people and identifying with them."

"It's easy to give dollars to Africa," said Porter, "but, it takes a converted human being, who really knows Christ, to take someone into their home or champion the cause of welfare people and poor kids in this country."

Leisa Hammett writes for the Home Mission Board.

HMB commissions 35 US-2ers

ATLANTA (BP) — Thirty-five recent college graduates have been commissioned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as US-2 missionaries. US-2ers spend two years doing all kinds of assignments ranging from traditional evangelism and starting new churches, to working with the deaf in Jackson, Miss., and with students in Hilo, Hawaii.

The US-2 missionaries were appointed to work in 18 states plus Canada under the board's program which provides opportunities for college graduates under the age of 27 to devote two years to missions work. The commissioning service was held at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Smyrna, Ga., in suburban Atlanta.

The largest number of the missionaries (five) will be working in California. Four were appointed to resort missions work in South Carolina, and three each were commissioned to work in New York and Florida.

Two US-2ers were appointed for service in Vermont, Montana, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and British Columbia, Canada; and one each was commissioned to work in Michigan, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, South Dakota, Utah, Iowa, Massachusetts and Hawaii.

Staff Changes

Robert C. Fullerton, pastor of North McComb Church for almost 4½ years, has resigned effective Oct. 5. He has been called as pastor of First Church, Livingston, Ala. Fullerton and his wife, Ann, are both natives of Fayette, Ala. Their daughter, Leah, is a student of the University of Southern Mississippi. Fullerton has been active in Pike County Baptist Associational Activities and the McComb Exchange Club. The last day of service at North McComb Church is Sept. 29. After the evening service there will be a farewell reception at 8 o'clock.

Walnut Church (Tippah) called Guy Thomas Garrett Sr., as pastor. Garrett has been serving the church as interim pastor for the past three months. He will begin serving the church as pastor Oct. 6. Garrett, of Walnut, is married to the former Judy Boyd of Brownfield. They have two children, Tommy, and Rachel.

G. Wiley Gann, after eight years as pastor, has resigned Rienzi Church to accept the call of First Church, Potts Camp. The Gann family moved on the field at Potts Camp on Sept. 12 and assumed full pastoral duties on Sept. 16.



Gann

Dwayne Sims recently resigned as minister of music and activities at First Church, Inverness. He plans to attend New Orleans Seminary and to accept a call as minister of education and music at Suburban Church, New Orleans.

W. Lamar Massingill has resigned as pastor of Fellowship Church, Summit to accept the position of minister at Ramsay Memorial United Methodist Church, Gulfport.

Jolley retires as Panola DOM

G. E. Jolley, Sr., Batesville, retired on Sept. 1 as director of missions in Panola County, a position he had served for 15 years. Altogether, he has been director of missions for 22 years in Smith, Jasper, Tallahatchie, and Panola counties.



Jolley

Jolley was born at Carthage. He was graduated from Mississippi College and attended New Orleans Seminary.

He and his wife have a son and a daughter.

Jolley's 11 years in the pastorate were spent at Rock Branch, Yellow Creek, Sylvarena, Polkville, Magee's Creek, and Belle Fountain churches.

Panola calls Ballard as DOM

Walter Ballard on Oct. 1 will assume responsibilities as director of missions in Panola County. He has been serving as director of missions in Tishomingo County.



Ballard

Ballard, a Louisiana native, is married to the former Stella Wilson. They have five children. He is a graduate of Clarke and Mississippi College.

He was ordained at Bethany Church, Newellton, La., and served in Mississippi pastorates before becoming director of missions.

Carolyn Ishee, pastor's wife, dies

Carolyn Ishee, wife of retired pastor, Harold Ishee, died on September 12.

The funeral service was Sept. 14 at Plainview Baptist Church, Laurel, where her husband was pastor for 35 years and she was church secretary for 25 years. Both retired earlier this year. (Plainview was his only pastorate, and he was the church's only pastor until this year.)

Mrs. Ishee was born in Jasper County in 1923. Burial was in Jasper County.

Survivors include her husband, Harold Ishee, of Laurel; father, Erve H. Windham of Bay Springs; four children, Milford Collette Ishee, Laurel; Linda Kay DuBose, Shreveport, La.; Wanda Fay Robinson, Laurel; and Larry Dan Ishee, Laurel; and eight grandchildren.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Sept. 29 Celebration Sunday in Sunday School (SS Emphasis)
Sept. 29-Oct. 6 Sunday School Preparation Week (SS Emphasis)
Sept. 30 ACTS-BTN Update; FBC, Hattiesburg; 7-9 p.m. (DBS)
Oct. 1 ACTS-BTN Update; (DBS)
10 a.m.-Noon — Baptist Building
7:00-9:00 p.m. — Calvary BC, Tupelo
OCTOBER — Cooperative Program Month (SBC Emphasis)
Handbell Leadership Seminar; FBC, Brandon; 10 a.m.; 3rd-5 p.m., 4th (CM)

Devotional

Have you ever been extravagant toward Jesus Christ?

By Chuck Moody

Mark 14:3-9

In this passage, Mark describes a special moment in the life of Jesus. Only a few days remained before his crucifixion. While he was dining in the house of Simon the leper, a woman anointed his head with very expensive perfume. It was worth a year's wages. She broke the jar of perfume and poured it on his head.



Moody

Her act was a clear expression of unrestrained love and adoration. She obviously was not doing the normal thing. She did not consider the cost. She did not dispense the perfume in small portions so it would last a long time. She was not concerned with the inevitable criticism of her extravagance. Her deed was carried out in a bold and generous manner.

Jesus was deeply moved by her action. He welcomed her lavish expression of devotion and accepted her act as an anointing for his burial. He rebuked those who criticized her and promised that her deed would be remembered wherever the gospel is preached.

Most of us know how to be extravagant with our gifts to ourselves and the ones we love. You have probably commented at the end of a shopping trip, "Wow! I really splurged today!"

But, have you ever been extravagant in your gifts of time and money to Jesus Christ? Have you given beyond the limits of reason or moderation? Have you been so touched by the fact that he died in your place that you wanted to do something extra special for him?

When I was in seminary I met a surgeon and his family who were preparing to go to Africa as career missionaries. They had just had their psychological interview and testing, and the next day the surgeon was talking with an acquaintance. When his friend learned that he was giving up his successful medical practice to go to the mission field, he said, "You need to have your head examined." The surgeon replied, "I had that done yesterday."

There are many who feel that extravagant gifts to Jesus Christ are foolish, unnecessary, and wasteful. The truth is that nothing is too good for Jesus. He deserves our best and our all. Our gifts. Our lives. So, the next time you give something to Jesus Christ, splurge! And the next time you do something for him, be extravagant!

Moody is pastor, First, Morton.

Revival Dates

Valley Hill (Carroll-Montgomery): Sept. 29-Oct. 4; services beginning at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday; prayer service Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m., night services 7:30 p.m.; George Smith, pastor, Carrollton, guest evangelist; Joseph Sansing, music; Sue Avant, pianist; Rickey McKay, pastor.

Harrisville (Simpson): Sept. 29-Oct. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; lunch will be served Sunday as part of Celebration Sunday; Larry Hill, pastor, evangelist; Sammy J. McDonald, minister of music, music.

Nola (Lawrence): Oct. 7-11, evening services, 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Daniel Gandy, Coldfire, Reform, Ala., evangelist; Charles Winborne, Brookhaven, music; Mrs. James Byrd, Heucks Retreat, pianist; J. W. Baker, Silver Creek, interim pastor.

McCall Creek Church, McCall Creek; Sept. 27 to 29; Richard Moore, Petal, evangelist; The Barber Shop Quartet in charge of services Sunday morning.

Dorsey, Mantachie: Oct. 6-9; Danny Powell, Meadowood, Amory, evangelist; David Lee, Parkway, Tupelo, music director; Chris Burrows, pastor.

Diamondhead (Gulf Coast): Oct. 6-10; regular Sunday services; Mon.-Thurs. 7 p.m.; J. Roy McComb, First, Columbia, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music evangelist, Brookhaven; Paul B. Oglesbee, Jr. pastor.

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Names in the News



Artesia Church licensed two men to the ministry, Sept. 8. Pictured from left to right, Aubrey Langford, Grant Whistler, and Ben Yarber, pastor. This brings to a total of seven the number of men surrendering to the ministry from Artesia Church during this church year.

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Jerry Stamps, a certified public accountant and five-year employee of a national accounting firm, has been named to the newly created position of controller for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Stamps, 27, came to the commission Sept. 1 from the Fort Worth office of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. where he was responsible for planning, supervising, and reviewing audits.



West McComb Church recently ordained Glen May as a deacon. He is the grandson of Homer May who has served West McComb Church as a deacon for many years. Also Lamar May, his son and the father of Glen May is also a deacon. Pictured are the three generations serving as deacons of the West McComb Church, McComb. From left to right are Glen May, Lamar May and Homer May. Glen was ordained as a deacon August 28. E. M. Fleming is pastor.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Greg Warner, news coordinator for the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television for the past five years, has been elected associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness effective Oct. 1.

Homecomings

Providence - Church (Lebanon): Oct. 6; 11 a.m. Archie Herrin, Bethel, Monticello, guest speaker; dinner on the ground following 11:00 worship; Larry Gafford, pastor.

Harland Creek (Holmes): Oct. 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Robert Self, preaching at 11 a.m. service; Frank Steidle, leading music; dinner on ground to follow; The Steen Quartet, singing, 1:30 p.m.; Ellis Jones, pastor.

Zion Hill, Wesson: homecoming 102nd anniversary; Oct. 20; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Copiah Association, evangelist; old fashioned dinner on grounds following morning service; J. Frank Smith, pastor.

Nola (Lawrence): homecoming, Oct. 13; Bobby Smith, Foxworth; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; followed by dinner on the ground in fellowship hall; afternoon services, 1:30 p.m.; singing by the K. C. Beeson family, The Ladies Quartet, New Zion (Lawrence), and duet, Heucks Retreat (Lincoln). J. W. Baker, interim pastor, Silver Creek.

McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl: homecoming Sept. 29; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; worship service at 11 a.m.; lunch served at the church; the Dear Family Singers will be guests for Celebration Sunday in the afternoon; Curtis L. Williams, pastor.

Committee "affirms" Dallas SBC actions

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A legal complaint by a Birmingham, Ala., layman and his wife that their rights were violated during the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has been denied by the SBC's Executive Committee.

During its September meeting, the committee voted in executive session to "affirm" the actions of the 1985 annual meeting, thus denying the claim of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder, members of Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, and messengers to the annual meeting.

Following the action, the Crowders said they and "other Southern Baptists with whom they are acting" will "have nothing to say until we see what they (the Executive Committee) have said. Until we talk with the lawyer and the others, we will have nothing further to say about our future course of action."

The retired Birmingham layman previously said he was prepared "to do whatever is necessary to seek redress," even going to civil courts through the filing of a class action lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its officers.

Crowder claims the current Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees of the SBC was illegally elected. Crowder asked the Executive Committee to "take prompt and effective action . . . to remedy the violations . . . and to assure similar violations of the bylaws are not repeated in the future."

Their specific complaint revolves around a ruling by SBC President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta, who ruled out-of-order an effort to amend the report of the 1985 Committee on Committee which nominated the Committee on Boards.

During the Executive Committee meeting, the Crowders' attorney, Emmet J. Bondurant, made a 10-minute presentation concerning the

grievance. After the presentation, the Executive Committee met for an hour and a half in a closed door meeting with SBC attorney, James P. Guenther of Nashville. It was the first time in more than 30 years the Executive Committee has conducted an executive session.

The following afternoon, Chairman David Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., read without amplification a four paragraph statement concerning the results of the closed meeting. The statement said that "whatever mistakes might have occurred in

(Continued on page 4)

The 15 findings

These are the 15 "Findings" of the Executive Committee concerning the Crowder grievance.

ONE: Messengers clearly must control the Southern Baptist Convention within the Convention's own procedures.

TWO: The messengers at the 1985 Convention elected the nominees offered by the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

THREE: It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that if the nominees offered from the floor had been voted upon by the Convention, the Committee on Committee's nominees would have been elected to constitute the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

This opinion is based upon a review of the events and actions of the 1985 Convention and the personal observations of the members of the Executive Committee.

FOUR: The messengers to the

(Continued on page 4)

Thursday, September 26, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

The Baptist Record

ACTS refinancing plan, loan okayed

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A plan to refinance American Christian Television System (ACTS) has been approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

During its September meeting, the committee approved a proposal which would allow the SBC Radio and Television Commission—parent organization of ACTS—to borrow up to \$10 million with a 10-year payback and to conduct a five-year \$10 million fund raising campaign.

The loan would allow the RTVC to pay off an estimated \$8.5 million debt, giving it relief from large payments required if the debt is retired in the maximum three-year limitation of the SBC Business and Financial Plan, thus improving the cash flow situation.

"We believe this restructuring of the debt is essential at this point to the continuing operation of (ACTS and the RTVC)," said Harmon Born, an Atlanta auto dealer and chairman of the Executive Committee's special committee appointed in February to study the financial situation of the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency. He added it "gives them financial relief they need for continuing operations and programming."

According to background material provided to Executive Committee members, RTVC "has been confronted with large expenditures" to start the network, which was launched in June of 1984. It added "it is recognized that the ACTS undertaking will require long term, ongoing expenses beyond those which can be supported by the Cooperative Program allocation."

Stringent conditions

Born said conditions of the approval are "very stringent . . . designed to help them develop a definite plan to retire their indebtedness without having to add additional indebtedness." He said "significant restrictions" are built into the plan, including a limitation to total debt, requiring RTVC trustees to take a more aggressive role in management, and specific requirements of reporting financial status to the Executive Committee.

Born told Baptist Press the "idea is that whether it is any individual, a corporation, or an organization, you need to take in more money than you pay out."

Fred Roach, a Dallas homebuilder and RTVC trustee, said the plan means "ACTS will be slowed down to the right level; we will do as we have the money to do." He added the decision also means "RTVC trustees have

taken a much more significant role in working with the management of the commission in meeting financial obligations."

The plan approved by the Executive Committee was hammered out in six months, which Roach characterized as a "very hard six months." RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said: "The whole process was painful but was a good learning process."

Born said the Executive Committee delayed action in February "because we had a strong feeling we did not want to go ahead with any recommendation based on a partial set of facts."

According to information provided at the meeting, ACTS got into financial trouble "when preliminary projections proved too aggressive and optimistic and have not been achieved." Other information indicated planners expected ACTS to reach 14 million households by mid-1985. RTVC officials report the network has reached only 2.6 million households.

Growth rate . . . slower

Allen said some of the "preliminary projections were questions rather than statements, and admitted the "growth rate" has been much slower than anticipated." He added gift income also did not develop, which ACTS planners counted heavily on to make the system financially viable.

Roach said there was "a lot of dreaming in the early days" of ACTS. "There was no roadmap; no one had ever done this before. We are still doing a lot of dreaming (about ACTS, its ministry, and potential) but we are basing the dreams on history now."

The RTVC came to the Executive Committee in February 1985, asking permission to borrow \$10 million with a 10-year payout and to conduct a convention-wide campaign to raise \$12.5 million. Both requests require the SBC Business and Financial Plan be waived.

In February, the commission was given permission to conduct a three-year \$6 million fund raising campaign, but a final decision on restructuring of the debt was postponed until September. At that time the seven-member committee was appointed to work with RTVC trustees and administrators to develop sound financial and operational data.

In addition to Born, other Executive Committee members on the special committee are Dewey Presley of Dallas, immediate past chairman of the Executive Committee; David Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., current chairman; William Collins of Mem-

phis, Tenn.; Ann Smith of Greensboro, N. C.; Kenneth Mahanes of Dayton, Ohio; and Frank Ingraham of Nashville.

When the plan was presented to the Executive Committee, member Paul Pressler of Houston asked about "reports" the RTVC has experienced "\$75,000 per week negative cash flow" and noted predictions the deficit will increase to \$100,000 per week. "Is this (the plan) going to bring costs into line or is it just borrowing more money?" Pressler asked.

Roach replied the deficit will be an estimated \$1.5 million during the next six months, after which the loan should have been negotiated, relieving some of the financial pressures. "We will go from a \$3 million (short-fall) last year to a \$1.5 million this year to zero next year (with the restructuring)," he said.

The action says "the commission will operate . . . within its income and the Business and Financial Plan," and specifies "there should be no liberalization of the perimeters in the (10-year) interim." It adds the RTVC "shall comply with the letter and the spirit. . . ."

The plan calls for the RTVC to report to the Executive Committee on "all aspects of its financial operations" in detail and on a schedule and in a format specified by Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett.

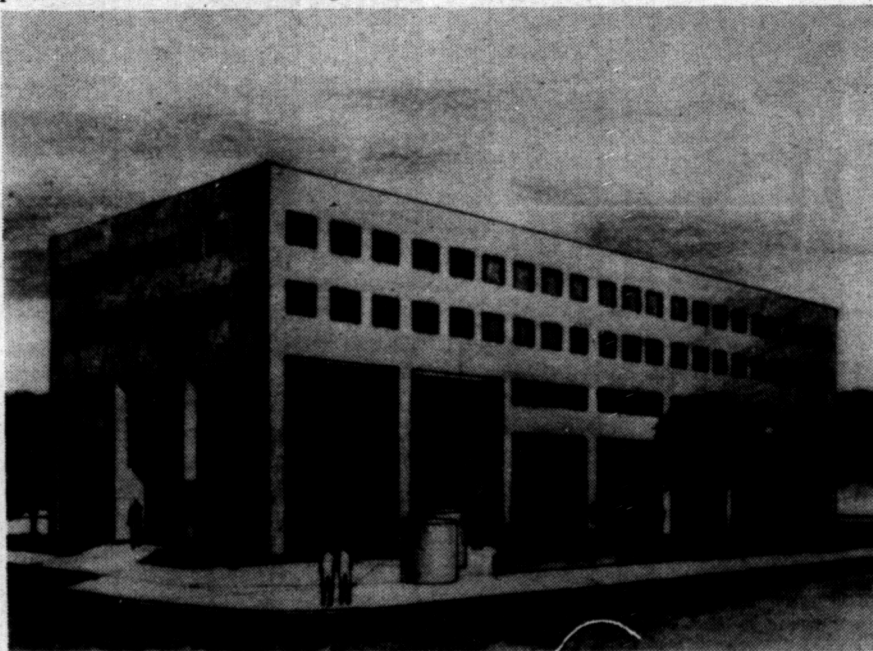
No other loans

The commission "will apply for no other loan during the 10-year period, nor shall the commission extend or vary in any or renegotiate the terms of existing indebtedness . . . which is not in compliance with this agreement and the Business and Financial Plan."

The plan allows the commission to "engage in short term borrowing" up to a maximum of \$900,000, but says any short-term loans "must be liquidated in full for a period of 90 consecutive days out of each 15-month period." It also requires that "all income, not restricted by written trusts, received by the commission from any source, including Cooperative Program funds, shall be first used for the repayment of principal and interest on all indebtedness . . . before any income is used for any purposes."

The agreement also allows the commission to borrow for capital purposes in amounts not to exceed 20 percent of the principal payments made on the \$10-million loan. Born explained

(Continued on page 5)



Medical Arts Plaza

Medical Arts Plaza, a new 100,000 square foot medical services office building to be built on the site of the Old Baptist Hospital, will be ready for occupancy in spring 1987, according to Medical Building Corporation of Dallas. The six-story building, which will be primarily physician owned, will be constructed around an interior atrium. It will include: diagnostic radiology services, a full service ambulatory surgery center, collection laboratory, and cardiac rehabilitation/physical therapy clinic, as well as 75,000 square feet of office space available for leasing. Multi-level parking for 450 cars will be provided. Underground connections with Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and the Medical Arts Building will be refurbished and reinstated.

Lawsuit threatened

Committee "affirms" SBC actions

(Continued from page 3)

Dallas in reference to interpretation of bylaws is (sic) history. To seek to re-do or un-do an action of the Southern Baptist Convention will accomplish no positive good."

The short statement added: "The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention instructs its legal counsel . . . that the Executive Committee affirms these actions of the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention."

After that report, Dotson Nelson, a retired pastor from Birmingham, Ala., stood to comment he wanted the minutes to reflect the "action was not unanimous" to adopt the "affirmation."

Several persons told Baptist Press "about 15 or 20" members voted against the adoption.

In his presentation, Bondurant recounted the events of the disputed election, and said the bylaws of the

SBC "specifically provide" that the Committee on Committees "has the power to nominate but not to dictate the membership of the Committee on Boards. . . ." He added the bylaws "provide clearly that the messengers to the convention have the power to amend the body, the conclusions, or the text of any report and that was the power which the messengers were attempting to exercise in Dallas and were thwarted in their effort to do so."

Bondurant claims the provisions of the SBC bylaws were "run rough shod over" during the convention and referred to the "arbitrary and . . . fundamentally illegal and unfair rulings" of the chair—Stanley—during the dispute.

He referred to the SBC Peace Committee, appointed to study the causes of controversy in the convention, and said: "One cannot expect to join together to heal wounds or to create

peace when one does not have basic respect for the integrity of the procedural rules of your own organization. Your organization is one of the most fundamentally representative organizations in any denomination anywhere in this country. It is a representative form of government. It depends upon the integrity of the procedures guaranteeing the right to vote of the duly elected messengers. That opportunity was denied the messengers of the Dallas convention."

He said consequences of the ruling are "clear and indisputable," and added: "The election is invalid. It is a clear violation of your bylaws. Those purportedly elected (as members of the 1985-86 Committee on Boards) are not validly serving."

He said the Executive Committee "is instructed" under the bylaws to act, and asked it to "exercise not merely its opportunity, but what we view as its fundamental responsibilities."

Bondurant said: "The alternative is to seek the aid of the civil court to enforce the bylaws of the convention if the Executive Committee is not prepared to confront this responsibility itself. This is not a fun thing to do but no one views litigation with enthusiasm either, but it is in the interest of the organization that it exercise its responsibilities. . . ."

Bondurant said the court is a last resort. "No one here is seeking condemnation or retribution. Merely remediation and correction and, most

importantly, adherence to the letter and the spirit of the bylaws. . . ."

—In addition to "affirming" the actions of the SBC, Maddox said the Executive Committee was "taking under advisement" Bondurant's comments "particularly regarding the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention and the interpretation of same," and referring the matter to the Bylaw Workgroup for further consideration."

The workgroup, chaired by John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., later presented an "initial" list of 15 "findings and recommendations." Sullivan explained they were being presented "in the event of litigation . . . we want to give him (Guenther) all of the support we can."

Several members—including Nelson and Alvin O. West of Washington—objected to several of the "findings." In particular Nelson objected to one which said: "It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that if the nominees offered from the floor had been voted upon by the convention, the Committee on Committees' nominees would have been elected to constitute the Committee on Boards. . . . This opinion is based upon a review of the events and actions of the 1985 convention and the personal observations of the members of the Executive Committee."

"I can't vote for that," Nelson said. "That is not based on my personal observation." Nelson added he would "rather be honest than legal," and said the "action (of the convention)

was just plain wrong. I don't want to paste any pictures over it."

West said he has "great reservations" about several of the "findings," and added: "The action taken last night (to affirm the convention action) was a mistake."

The committee voted 38-15 to adopt the "findings."

Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.

Tornado hits Trinity Church in Biloxi again

A tornado touchdown on the gulf coast Monday morning ripped a temporary roof from the sanctuary of Trinity Baptist Church in Biloxi, according to Rick Abel, son of the pastor Joe Abel. "Everything in the sanctuary was ruined," said Abel. "They were shoveling water out this morning." A new carpet had been in place only since July. Hurricane Elena tore off the roof, but apparently the twister caused more extensive damage. No other Baptist properties were known to be damaged by this or any of a group of tornadoes which hit the coast Monday.

Executive Committee's 15 findings

(Continued from page 3)

Southern Baptist Convention in 1986 may choose to accept or reject the nominations of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. These nominations to be reported to the Convention represent the total work of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

FIVE: Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986 will have the opportunity to make nominations from the floor for all positions on which the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committee makes nominations; thus, the ultimate selection of the members of the boards, institutions, commissions, standing committees and the Executive Committee rests with the messengers.

SIX: The polity of the Southern Baptist Convention allows the Executive Committee to affirm the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. The decision by the Executive Committee to affirm that election which occurred in the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention makes all procedural defects moot, if any occurred, in that election.

SEVEN: The action by the Executive Committee on the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees reflects the Executive Committee's ad interim judgement that, in so doing, the Executive Committee has acted in the total best interest of the Convention.

EIGHT: In the governance of the boards, commissions, institutions, and standing committees, the Convention's procedures provide for a gradual transition in the composition of trustees. This minimizes the impact of any year's Convention's selection of trustee replacements

on any board of directors and prevents any radical shift in the constituency of a board or committee as the result of any one Convention.

NINE: While the Convention significantly relies on the trustees of its institutions in the conduct of the ministries of those institutions, the Convention itself ultimately controls the destiny of those institutions.

TEN: The Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention are being reviewed by the Executive Committee for clarity and consistency with the democratic process which is uniquely Southern Baptist.

ELEVEN: The role of the parliamentarian will be reviewed by the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee.

TWELVE: The polity and ecclesiology of the Southern Baptist Convention is the outgrowth of unique Southern Baptist understanding of theology.

THIRTEEN: Judicial interference in the internal governance of the religious ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention is unacceptable and would constitute an intolerable entanglement between church and state.

FOURTEEN: The Southern Baptist Convention is in the midst of complex and sincere efforts to rediscover its basis for consensus. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that its action affirming the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees in the 1985 Convention is consistent with the Convention's efforts.

FIFTEEN: The Executive Committee hopes Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder will confine the advancement of their position solely within the confines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pastors

Watch for a special letter from Dr. Kelly regarding important information about your future.



"Serving those who serve the Lord."



- Just for the Record -



"Missions Lighting the World" was the theme of the Girls in Action recognition service recently held at First Church, Byram. Badges were presented to 14 girls for the completion of Mission Adventures. Special recognition was given to Susan Martin for completing all six of her Mission Adventures. The girls recognized were (left to right) row one, Angela Jordan, Becky Buie, Karen Martin, Kristy Hartfield, Terri Smith, Noelle Fitzgerald, Kristi Hollingsworth, Robin Gower. Row two, Beth Sullivan, Susan Martin, Roxann Ellis, Kelly Massengill, Kathy Hancock, Donna Boyd. Mrs. Carole Martin is GA director, and James W. Buie is pastor.



Wahalak Church, in the northeast part of Kemper County has a new education and fellowship building. The membership is 75. Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ashford Persons gave a generous gift that set the church in motion toward adding this new building. Robert Higgenbotham, pastor of Wahalak, encouraged and led the people through their building program. Higgenbotham commended the people for their Christ-like spirit through the project. They were able to dedicate the building to God, debt free, upon completion. The building is a brick veneer (70' X 36') that cost \$56,000.



Thirteen men from Mississippi participated in the National Trainer Certification for Brotherhood workers across the SBC. The Trainer Certification was held Aug. 22-25, at the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tennessee. Men attending the National Trainer Certification were: Row 1 (l-r) Jon Doler, Nolan Houston, Paul Aultman, George Smith, Marvin Cox, Bobby Cobb. Row 2, Wade Allen, Jerry Wise, Bill Crider, Jerald Welch. Row 3, Trent Grubbs, Farris Smith, Norris Stampley.

Oral Church WMU Council recently had a covered dish dinner in honor of Mrs. Coy L. Rawls (Irene). A certificate was given to her in appreciation for her love and dedication to her church. The following Sunday, the church took up a love offering to send to the new WMU building in Birmingham in honor of her.

Douglas Benedict, director of missions, presented to her the Associational Leadership Diplomas. Mrs. Coy L. Rawls is the first lady in the association to have earned this diploma. Other guests were Edith Campbell, Associational WMU Director; Joy Holston, Assistant Associational WMU Director; Gail Benedict, District II Associate Director.



McAdams men build porch

A group of men from the McAdams Baptist Church Brotherhood, Attala County, built a new porch for the hospital Hospitality House in Jackson. Five men, along with their pastor, Joe Anderson, selected this as a special mission project. The five were James Pickle, Arlis Godfrey, Steve Thompson, Caldwell Bishop, and Jesse McMillan. McMillan's wife is taking radiation treatment at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and the McMillans are staying at the House.

Hospital Hospitality House is a non-profit Christian ministry which offers housing for seriously ill people and their families while undergoing outpatient treatment. The organization is dependent on donations and volunteer service. Gayle Browning is executive director. The phone is 352-6361.

Pictured from left are Caldwell Bishop, Arlis Godfrey, Steve Thompson, and Joe Anderson.

The Disciples, a singing group, will be at Causeyville Church, Sat. night, Sept. 28, starting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served in fellowship hall after the singing. Don Womble is the pastor.

Dino Kartsonakis will be in concert at Parkway Church, 2603 W. Capitol St., Jackson, Tues. night, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

First Church, Nettleton will dedicate its new sanctuary Sept. 29, at the 10:30 worship service. There will be lunch afterwards as well as gospel singing by church members and former music directors. Bendon Ginn, former pastor, will preach the morning sermon. Building committee chairman is Ben Coggin, interim pastor is Kermit Brann, and minister of music is Jim Armstrong. Other former pastors who will participate in the dedication service are L. R. Magers, W. T. Dixon, Jr., and William P. Smith, III, Labrenda Coleman, Dennis Basden, and Charlie Farrar, former music directors, will also be on program.



Part of the group of more than 75 committee members working on the Open House-Debt Retirement Day for the Family Life Center at Tylertown Church are pictured. Front row: Mr. and Mrs. Adris Brock, Mrs. John Conerly, Mrs. Rex Pigott, Mrs. Walter Crawford, Ansel Estess, Mrs. Wilda Magee, Mrs. George Stringer, and Robert Jones. Back row: W. C. Burch, David Shivers, Mrs. Chester Moore, Mrs. Faye Jack Simmons, Mrs. Robert Jones, Nathan Graves, Joe Dowe, Jimmy Forbes, and Tylertown's pastor, Bartis Harper. The Half-Million Dollar structure was completed in early 1985 and includes a gymnasium, kitchen, game room, office space, craft room, snack area, education space, and parlor. The church plans to pay off the remaining \$30,000.00 in the next few weeks.



Speaker: Jeanette Cliff George

Noted Actress (portrayed Corrie Ten Boom in the movie, *The Hiding Place*), author, playwright and international speaker.

\$ 7.50 Registration

Every person must come to the place where they can say from the heart,

"By the Grace of God, I Am What I Am!"

Celebration

A Fantastic Fall Weekend

October 4 & 5

Schedule

Friday, October 4 8:00 P.M. Sanctuary

Saturday, October 5 9:00 A.M. Sanctuary

Sponsored By:
The Single Adult Ministry
First Baptist Church
Jackson, Mississippi

SCRAPBOOK

Falling leaves

As I was riding down the highway,
I glanced from the grayish black
pavement

And I realized that green leaves of
summer had faded away.
In their places were brilliant leaves
In colors of orange, red, and yellow
array.

As the wind blew silently through
the trees,
I could see leaves falling slowly
about,
Landing here and there with the
breeze,

Never taking a certain route.
Oh, the beauty for all to see!

No matter which route we take
today,
We, God's children, should be more
like the beauty of falling
leaves,
Spreading the gospel with each
thing we say,
Helping others find saving grace
by sharing Jesus Christ
As though his return might be this
very day!

—Barbara Jones
Soso

Oh, morning's smile —
God's own greeting —
Awesome orange aura all around outside,

More lovely than
My words would ever be —
Far surpassing human concepts,
But not feelings —
Here, hold to my finger,
Stay in my palm so I can see you

Morning's smile

again next hour, and the next . . .

Ah, selfish—
He did not make beauty to grab and hold —
Only to briefly pause and reflect upon,
And soul search
And love again —
Yourself, and all his
creation.
—Kaye George

The earth is full of thy riches (Psalm 104:24)

Some of the riches God gives to me
are scattered at my feet and I pass by
without the slightest notion they even
exist.

The dewdrops balanced on top of
each sprig of green spring grass
become diamonds when touched by
the rays of the morning sun.

There is gold in the sunset and in a
sunbeam silently passing through the
golden leaves of an autumn mountain
path.

Silver is the frosty blanket that
covers the earth gloriously lit by the
milky light of the moon.

Emerald is the water deep in a
rocky gorge.

Turquoise is the ocean capped with
silver in the sun.

Rubies are berries on the holly bush
covered by the icy coat.

Thank you, Lord, for the riches of
your creation. — Linda Philley Tharp
Greenville

Memories of September

There's a feeling of expectancy
in the air
A morning chill, a leaf drifting down
here and there
A blue sky above, clouds vanished
from sight,
There's a feeling inside me, every-
thing is all right.

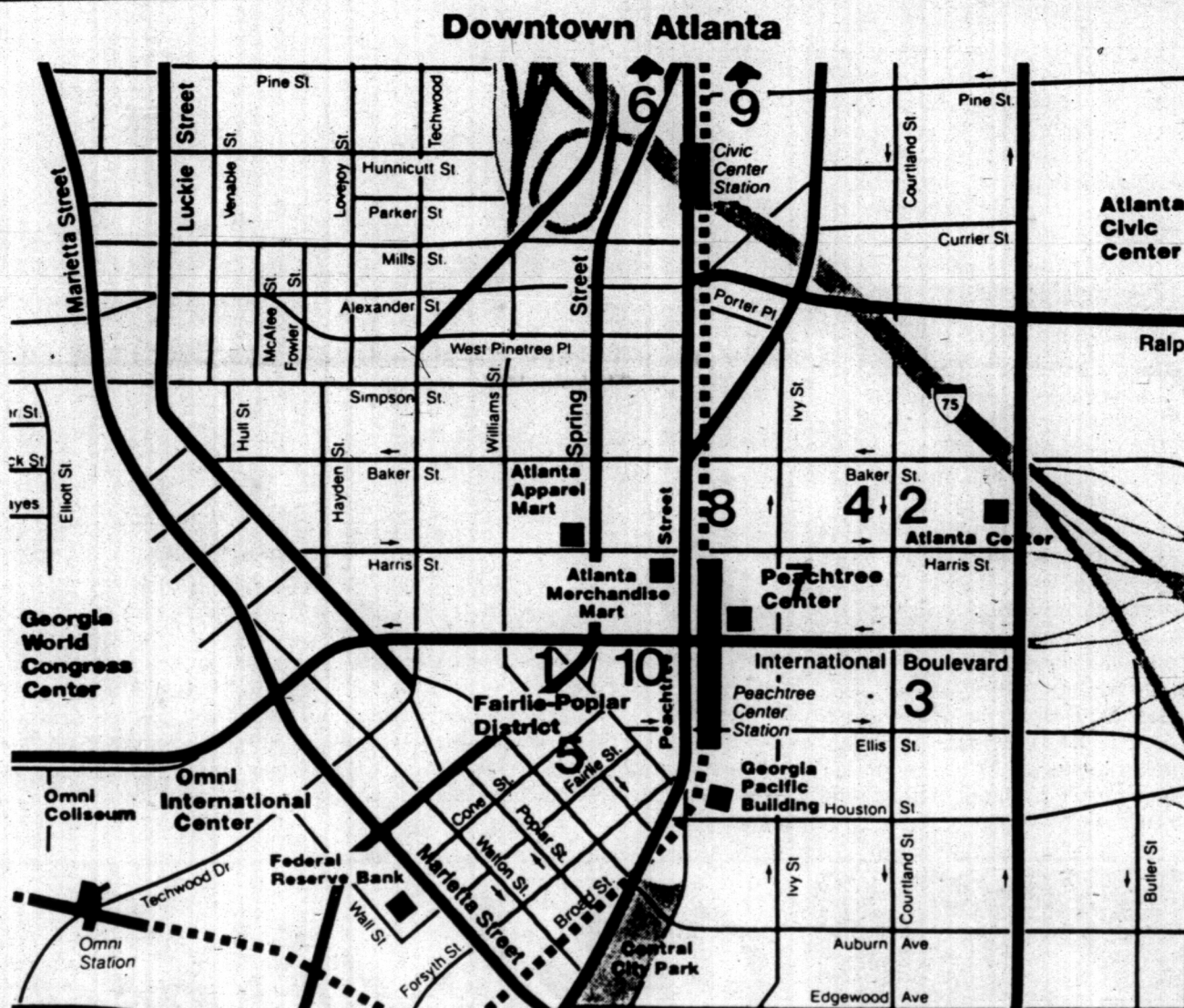
The evening sunset leaves a beautiful
lingering glow
The deepening shadows are caught in
the moonlight below
When have I had these feelings — I
ponder to remember —
Then they come to me, the bittersweet
memories of September.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

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Map Number	Hotel	Single	Double
1.	American Hotel	\$62.00	\$72.00
2.	Atlanta Hilton & Towers hotel	\$74-110.00	\$92-128.00
3.	Atlanta Marriott Downtown	\$59.00	\$72.00
4.	Atlanta Marriott Marquis	\$83.00	\$93.00
5.	Atlantan Hotel	\$38.00	\$44.00
6.	Best Western Midtown Plaza	\$46.00	\$56.00
7.	Downtown Motor Inn	\$47.00	\$57.00
8.	Hyatt Regency Atlanta	\$77.00	\$92.00
9.	Lanier Plaza Hotel	\$47.00	\$47.00
10.	*Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel	\$73.00	\$73.00

*NOTE: Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel is the headquarters hotel.

All Convention Sessions will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center.

AMY GRANT
IN CONCERT

the unguarded tour

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 7:30 P.M.
COLISEUM
MISSISSIPPI STATE FAIR • JACKSON
ALL TICKETS RESERVED: \$12.50

Advanced tickets include free
admission to fair.
Tickets are available at:
Coliseum Box Office,
All Be-Bop Record Stores, All
Maranatha Stores & All Usual
Out-Of-Town Outlets.
Order by mail by sending
cashier's check or money order
with self addressed, stamped
envelope to: AMY GRANT
TICKETS, P.O. Box 892,
Jackson, MS 39205
Enclose \$1.00 handling charge
per order.

KE 1180
welcomes
Amy Grant

Housing request form Southern Baptist Convention June 10-12, 1986 — Atlanta Georgia

USE OF FORM

The attached form is similar to the one that has been used for the past six Southern Baptist Conventions. Those wishing to make hotel reservations for the Southern Baptist Convention through the Atlanta Housing Bureau must use this form. No phone reservations will be accepted by the Housing Bureau. If you do not wish to use the services of the Housing Bureau you may contact any hotel not listed on this form. (History indicates that all of the hotels listed by the Housing Bureau will fill from individual mailing forms postmarked October 1-2, 1985. Mail this Form October 1!)

HOW TO USE THE FORM

One form should be used for each room requested.

Map on page 10

Missionaries on furlough

Missionaries from Mississippi now on furlough:

Gerald and Glenda Davis, Philippines, 520 Magazine St., Tupelo; Jimmy and Susie Hartfield, Mexico, Route 8, Box 1474, Hattiesburg; James and Carolyn McAtee, Indonesia, 919 Reeves St., Jackson; Ronnie and Beth Parker, Brazil, 100 Georgia Ave., Hattiesburg; Richard and Joan Fox, India, 1045 Flynt Drive, Apt. Q-7, Jackson; Jason and Susan Carlisle, Uruguay, 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson; Ralph and Joyce Davis, Ghana, 108 S. 17th Ave., Hattiesburg;

Bill and Carolyn Smith, Brazil, Box 302, Long Beach; Curtis and Deanie Ferrell, Ecuador, 787 East Northside Drive, Jackson; Harold and Joyce Watson, Philippines, c/o Jim Watson, 5301 Ridgewood, Jackson; John and Kathy McNair, Uruguay, Route 1, Box 173, Magee; Felix and Dene Greer, Liberia, 137 Melrose Drive, Jackson; Robert and Nan Sugg, Taiwan, 4660 Meadowridge, Jackson; Thomas and Hazel Barron, Indonesia, c/o W. D. Brewer, Route 2, Box 356B, Theodore, Ala.;

Delos and Wanda Brown, Zambia, c/o James Lowery, 9250 W. Inniswold Road, Baton Rouge, La.; Douglas and Paula Simrell, Ivory Coast, c/o Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Simrell, Sr., 1011 Grant St., Decatur, Ala.; Stanley and Glena Stamps, Honduras, 2334 Coronet Place, Jackson; Fran and R. T. Buckley, Bangladesh, Rt. 4, Box 248, Picayune; Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler, Greece, c/o S. R. Townsend, Rt. 4, Box 286, Forest; Roger and Beverly Swann, Tanzania, 416 Ford St., Columbia;

Edd and Freda Trott, Brazil, Dalewood Shores, Rt. 1, Box 149, Lauderdale; Winfield and Laverne Applewhite, Indonesia, Pine Trail Apts., M-5, Clinton; Charles and Dianne Deevers, Ivory Coast, 400 Madison St., Clinton; Donald and Rose McCain, Portugal, 500 Linden Circle, Starkville; Ralph and Gena Calcote, Japan, 1625 Easy St., Yazoo City.

PART I — Accurately fill in the requested information. The confirmation will be mailed to the person whose name appears in Part I. This person must be one of the persons who will be occupying the room.

PART II — From the accompanying list, select five hotels of your choice. Place the names of the hotels on the lines in Part II in the order of your preference.

PART III — Fill in all information requested for the room you wish to reserve. If you need more than one room, use a second sheet. Photo copies of the form may be used.

HOW IS THE FORM PROCESSED?

When the Housing Request Forms are received by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, they will be held until October 14, 1985, to be sure that all the housing requests postmarked October 1 have had time to arrive. The forms will then be opened by postmark date. The time of day the forms are mailed is not important.

Detach the form and mail it to:

SBC Housing Bureau
233 Peachtree St. N.E., Suite 200
Peachtree Harris Building
Atlanta, GA 30043

NOTE: HOUSING REQUESTS POSTMARKED PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 1985, WILL BE PROCESSED AFTER THOSE POSTMARKED OCTOBER 1, 2, or 3.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All housing forms are processed by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. However, if you have a special problem, or if you have need for further information, contact HOUSING INFORMATION, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce No. 750, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, telephone (615) 244-2355.

ADDITIONAL FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR STATE OFFICE.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION JUNE 10-12, 1986—ATLANTA, GEORGIA

OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM

• PLEASE READ CAREFULLY •

- PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.
- SHOULD MORE THAN ONE (1) ROOM BE NEEDED, PLEASE USE A SECOND FORM.
- ALL CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

PART I

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete requested data using abbreviations as necessary.

(NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ROOMS) NOTE: This person must be one of the individuals who will be occupying the room.

If necessary, photocopies of this form may be used to make additional reservations.

(FIRST NAME)															(LAST)														
(STREET ADDRESS OR P. O. BOX NUMBER)																													
(CITY)															(STATE)					(ZIP - U.S.A.)									
(Area Code)					(PHONE NUMBER)																								

PART II

INSTRUCTIONS: Select FIVE Hotels/Motels of your choice

FIRST CHOICE _____

SECOND CHOICE _____

THIRD CHOICE _____

FOURTH CHOICE _____

FIFTH CHOICE _____

CHOICE BY

Rate Location

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART III

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED WITH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.
2. PRINT OR TYPE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING EACH ROOM.

Arrival Date _____

Departure Date _____

Arrival Time _____

Check type of room desired:

_____ Single (1 bd/1 pr)

_____ Triple (2 bd/3 pr)

_____ Double (1 bd/2 pr)

_____ Quad (2 bd/4 pr)

_____ Twin (2 bd/2 pr)

_____ Other (specify) _____

Name of all persons occupying the room, including the individual in PART I (print last name first)

1		3	
2		4	

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Hotel locations are shown on accompanying map. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date mailed. Confirmations will come directly from your hotel. DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS. If rooms are not available at hotels of your choice, comparable reservations will be made at another cooperating hotel. If rate requested is not available, next available rate will be assigned. Changes in reservations should be made in writing to the SBC Housing Bureau, 233 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 200, Peachtree Harris Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30043.

NOTE: PLEASE RECHECK ALL ITEMS FOR CORRECT INFORMATION
DO NOT MAIL FORMS POSTMARKED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1985

Baptist Record

- Life and Work: *Healing broken relationships*
- Bible Book: *Jerusalem's sorrow . . .*
- Uniform: *How the body of Christ lives*

Jerusalem's sorrow and plea for restoration

By J. Gerald Harris

Lamentations 1:1; 2:13-17; 3:22-24;
5:19-22

The book of Lamentations teaches many strategic lessons. It spotlights the importance of patience and prayer. It underscores the essentiality of confession of sin. In Lamentations we see the divine character of chastisement and the holiness and glory of the Lord. It is a book of dirges and doom; yet, it is not without its rays of hope such as shine through in chapter 3.

I. The Sorrow of Jerusalem (1:1; 2:13-17) — The first verse of Lamentations paints a picture of a city with empty houses, vacant lots, and deserted streets. The reference to Jerusalem as "a widow" symbolizes desolation and misery. The reference to Jerusalem as "a tributary" signifies subjection. The essence of Jerusalem's decline is captured in the

phase, "her fall was astounding" (1:9 NIV). The Living Bible offers this paraphrase: "Now she lies in the gutter . . ."

In the second chapter of Lamentations the prophet of God expresses the burden of his own heart and his frustration in trying to offer a measure of comfort to the citizens of Jerusalem. He cries out, "What thing shall I take to witness for thee? What thing shall I liken to thee . . . ? What shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee? . . ." (2:13). To the writer of the book of Lamentations the misfortune of Jerusalem appeared to be unparalleled.

Jeremiah placed the blame for Jerusalem's desolation upon the prophets. This accusation was well-founded, for there were those who proposed to speak in the name of the Lord, yet told not the truth (Jer. 2:8). Misery was heaped upon misery as

Jerusalem became the laughingstock of the nations. As the enemies of Israel passed by they clapped their hands, hissed and wagged their heads at the destruction of the city (2:15).

It was the pride of Jerusalem that evoked such malicious joy. For centuries Jerusalem had looked condescendingly upon her neighbors. Such a haughty spirit had created a negative attitude toward the city proclaimed as "the perfection of beauty." This contempt for Jerusalem led to an outburst of delight when the city was reduced to dust and ashes.

In verse 17, Jeremiah declares that Jerusalem has suffered under the hand of God because of her sins. Such activity is not inconsistent with a God of love. God sometimes, in his wisdom and goodness, produces external ruin in order to promote internal salvation. He is far more interested in our salvation than in our pleasure.

II. The steadfastness of Jehovah (3:22-24) — Thankfully, God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to his mercy. If we got what we deserved, we would be consumed, because we are sinners and "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23), but God is gracious.

By all rights Jerusalem deserved to be totally annihilated, both city and citizens, but in wrath God remembers mercy. He always leaves his remnant. God was bound by his covenant promises to perpetuate the seed of Abraham and since God is faithful to keep his promises his people were not totally consumed.

Sometimes men fail to keep their promises for men are controlled by circumstances. However, since God controls the circumstances, he always keeps his promises. He is steadfast and true. You can stand on the promises of the Lord. An old Irishman said, "On Christ the solid rock I stand;

all other rocks are shamrocks."

III. The supplication of Jeremiah (5:19-22) — Jeremiah appeals to the unchanging God to restore Israel unto Himself. He is not praying for God to turn the people from sin to nothingness and some blank vacancy. He is not urging God to turn the people to some creed or code or church or conduct, but to the Lord himself.

Note also that the prophet recognizes that the Lord is the one who must do the turning. Mere reform born out of self-effort is not enough. True regeneration and genuine restoration is the product of the convincing power of the Holy Spirit and the convicting power of the Holy Scriptures. God alone can change the heart, reverse the steps, and restore the blessedness of that honeymoon relationship with Him. Such is the need of multitudes today.

Harris is pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson.

How the body of Christ lives

By Anthony S. Kay

Ephesians 4:17-5:20; Focal Passage,
Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Christians are in the world (thank God for that), but they are to overcome the world. This lesson will help us answer this question, "How in the world can we do it?"

Observe the plight of the sinner. Such words as darkened, alienated, and hardness of heart sound ominous. Sinful man has his mind so cluttered

by the world that his understanding of spiritual things is darkened. He doesn't understand because he is in the dark. Have you ever tried to match a pair of dark blue and dark brown socks in the semi-darkness of a room? As difficult as that is, it is far more difficult for the unregenerate to understand spiritual truth with a darkened mind. This condition results in alienation from God. Sin always separates us from God. The end results of such living is the hardening of the heart. This means that our sen-

sitivity level is very low. This kind of living does not match well with life in Christ.

Note the transformed life. Paul lists a number of vices to be avoided. He includes every area of moral living. It has been suggested that the Lord was more severe in condemning the sins of attitude than the flesh. However true that may be, it remains that the Word of God requires moral conduct. The sinner's plight can only be aided by a genuine transformation. Reformation isn't adequate. In

Romans 12:2, Paul writes, ". . . be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind . . ." The power of the Holy Spirit will enable us to become transformed persons. We cannot overcome the world, apart from his assistance.

Consider the exemplary life. Ultimately the challenge is for man to become a child of God and as such to live a life of Christlikeness. Our lives should be carbon copies of Christ's. Arthur Roberts was my boyhood Sunday school teacher. Arthur lived what

he taught. Mr. Jones (his real name) lived next door to Arthur. For several years the Joneses were invited to attend the worship services of our church. They were indifferent and matter of fact in their refusal. One Sunday morning, the Jones family attended and made public professions of faith. Everyone at the service wondered "How were they reached?"

Mr. Jones told the audience, "Today, we are Christians because of Arthur, my neighbor. He asked us to attend church with him, but we refused. He always treated us with kindness and I looked closely at his life for the past few years. He and his family live an exemplary life. I told my wife, 'If being a Christian is what Arthur is like, then I want to be a Christian.'"

We can get from the sinful, darkened, alienated and hard hearted state to a life of Christlikeness by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Kay is pastor, First, Calhoun City.

Healing broken relationships

2 Corinthians 12:19-21; 13:5-10

By David W. Spencer

I. The final issue

As Paul prepares to close this great letter, we can sense the anxiety he has for the Corinthian church. He has given it his "best shot" in the letter. He will soon visit the church, and he is hopeful that the problems caused by false teachers, by carnal Christians, and by distrust of his motives will have been resolved. He is anxious for total reconciliation.

Paul expresses his fears in 12:19-21. In the first place, he is fearful that anyone would ever think that he was simply defending his reputation and calling before a Corinthian court! Nonsense! Paul only wants approval in the sight of Christ (v. 19).

In the next two verses (20-21) Paul expresses three more fears. He is afraid that his next visit to the Corinthian church will be mutually unsatisfying due to the persistence of the problems. His second fear is that many of the vices so prevalent in the wicked city of Corinth may be infiltrating the church. His third fear is that his heart may be broken if he arrives only to find gross immorality and a con-

tinuation of a broken relationship with him. This might cause utter humiliation for Paul as he openly wept and grieved over his sinful church members.

II. The crucial visit

With all these anxieties on his mind, Paul urged the Corinthians to examine themselves before his next visit (13:5-10). So far the church had been examining Paul. Now he urges them to take a self-examination. Emphatically, Paul keeps repeating the term yourselves. The self-test is concerned first with whether or not Christ is in them. There are only two possible answers: either he is in them or he is not. Paul knows that Christ is in them. They do too. When they admit this fact then they will be authenticating the ministry of Paul, for he was the one who brought Christ to them! (See v. 6.)

The next part of the self-test is to examine their own behavior (v. 7). While others were concerned with Paul's credentials, that was secondary to him. Though he didn't expect to be found a counterfeit, he would still accept that label if it guaranteed that the Corinthian church would be all

right. (Compare this to Romans 9:3!) Verse 8 sums up Paul's strong feelings on this subject: the truth of the Gospel must prevail at all costs!

Previously in this letter we have seen that one of the charges against Paul was how weak or meek he appeared when present at Corinth. Now in verse 9 Paul uses that charge to his own advantage. He is glad for opportunities to appear weak or mild because this means things are well in the church. He hopes in verse 10 that his next visit to Corinth can be one where he can be "weak" instead of harsh in the use of apostolic authority.

III. Epilogue

As you finish 2 Corinthians, you wish for a "3 Corinthians" to find out what happened. Well, as a matter of fact, there is certain evidence that Paul's letter had a good effect! According to Acts 20:2-3 he stayed in Corinth (Greece) for three months. Romans 15:23-33 and strong tradition seem to indicate that Paul wrote Romans while on this visit.

He would hardly have had the peace of mind to write that magnificent letter if there had been war in Corinth! It is also clear that the Corinthians

finally did finish the offering (chapters 8-9) for Jerusalem as we read Romans 15:26-27. He even says "they were pleased to do it." In the Roman letter Paul mentions his travel plans which he probably would not have been making if the Corinthian church were torn up.

Whether or not we are correct in this assessment of the outcome at Corinth, the truth remains that Paul taught that the whole world needs to be reconciled to God through Christ and that a church can do its best work in ministry only when relationships are healed by the power of Christ.

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

Shady Grove Church celebrates 100th

Shady Grove, Smith Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 29. Services will begin with Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed by worship at 11 a.m. with W. E. Green preaching. Lunch will be served in the Family Life Center, and a recollection of the church's history. LaRue Stephens is pastor.

Baptist Record

CARRIER ROUTE 33
005-DIM 291 9-19
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NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

September 26, 1985